

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 22-23 are pending. Applicants elect Group II (claims 6-18) with traverse for examination on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute non-elected subject matter in a further patent application.

Traversal is also based on the lack of a showing that examining claims of Groups I to III would constitute a serious burden. Although the inventions identified by the Examiner are separately patentable, both the need for compact prosecution and the public interest would be served by examination of all claims in a single application.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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